

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELEM 00168 271422Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-03 EB-08 CA-01 SCS-06
H-02 INR-10 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 TRSE-00
COME-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMCONSUL BELEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0766

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

NAT MARINE FISHERIES SERV ST PETERSBURGH FLA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BELEM 0168

PASS COMMERCE FOR NOAA., MEXICO FOR RFA

EO 11652:NA

TAGS: EFIS, BR, US

SUBJ: DISTRICT NAVY COMMANDER'S VIEW OF SHRIMPING INCIDENTS

1. FOURTH NAVAL DISTRICT COMMANDER ARANDA ASKED PRINCIPAL OFFICER
TO CALL ON HIM AFTERNOON OF JUNE 26 TO DISCUSS CURRENT PROBLEM
OF US SHRIMP BOAT ACTIVITIES IN AREA.

2. STRESSING WHAT HE CALLED SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION, ARANDA SAID
THAT NOT ONLY ARE LARGE NUMBERS OF US-REGISTRY BOATS (AMONG OTHERS)
FISHING ILLEGALLY, BUT THAT MOST OF THESE DEFY BRAZILIAN NAVY
EFFORTS TO APPREHEND THEM AND ENGAGE IN PROVOCATIVE EVASIVE
TACTICS THAT COULD RESULT IN DAMAGE TO VESSELS OF EITHER SIDE OR
CREW CASUALTIES. (HE CITED EXAMPLE OF ONE NON-US BOAT WHOSE CREW
THREW FISH INTO WATER IN EFFORT TO ATTRACT SHARKS TO BRAZILIAN
BOARDING CRAFT.)
SHRIMPERS CAN GENERALLY OUTRUN NAVY CORVETTES. ARANDA SAID, AND
MANY ARE SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDING CAPTURE EVEN AFTER BEING CAUGHT
RED-HANDED.

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3. NAVY HAS, THEREFORE, BEEN OBLIGED TO STEP UP MEASURES TO
COUNTER ILLEGAL FISHING AND HAS ASSIGNED DESTROYER TO PATROL
WATERS IN QUESTION FOR FIRST TIME IN RECENT YEARS.

4. ARANDA SAID THAT NAVY WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE CARE TO AVOID
INJURY OR BOAT DAMAGE DURING SEIZURE OPERATIONS. HOWEVER,
POINT WAS MADE THAT NAVY TAKES SERIOUSLY ITS RESPONSIBILITY

FOR CURBING ILLEGAL FISHING AND THAT IT INTENDS TO FULFIL
THIS RESPONSIBILITY WITH OR WITHOUT COOPERATION FROM SHRIMPERS.
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